

OUTREACH

participating in ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy

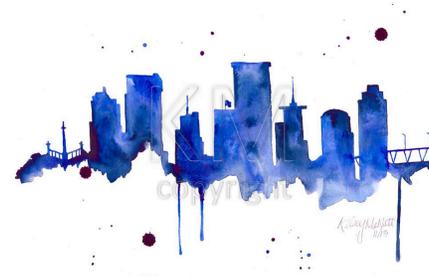
{Outward}

FEBRUARY IS FOR HEART HAVENS, for Heart Havens homes across Virginia.

Heart Havens, with help from congregations like Boulevard, empowers adults with intellectual disabilities to find their places at tables both at church and in the community. We are collecting financial gifts (\$402 thus far) and supplies (paper products, cleaning supplies, art supplies). Look for the blue bin outside the chapel.



Boulevard United Methodist Church



One special quality of God's people is their ability to see, to contemplate, even in "moments of darkness", the light Christ brings. God's faithful people can see, discern and contemplate his living presence in the midst of life, in the midst of the city.

- Pope Francis

February 21, 2016

On the front: Richmond, Virginia Skyline by Kelsey McNatt

321 N Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23220
www.boulevardumc.org

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (Matthew 28).

An Order of Worship for Lent 2

(UMH) - The United Methodist Hymnal
(TFWS) - The Faith We Sing

* Please stand, as able.

Gathering

I Go to the Rock

Call to Prayer and Praise

The temptation to use violence and force to achieve peace and gentleness;
The temptation to see our perspective as truth and others as heresy;
The temptation to believe the best of ourselves and the worst of others.

God give us grace to recognize and to resist—

God help us to be who we are called to be.

*Hymn *Lead Me, Guide Me* TFWS 2214

Prayer

Gracious God,

**In the beginning, you called us into communion. We belonged to you
and to each other. We confess our forgetfulness.**

silence

God is glad to restore us to the joy of remembering.
God give you peace—peace enough to share. **Amen.**

*The Peace

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
Interlude

Proclamation and Response

Time with Children

First Lesson Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Epistle Lesson Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

Gospel Lesson Luke 13:31-35

Sermon "That City" Rev. Rachel G. May

*Hymn *O Young and Fearless Prophet* UMH 444
Tune: Webb

Offering Tithes and Gifts

Offertory *The Lord is My Light*
Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (895 UMH)

Sending Forth

*Hymn *Precious Name 1-2* UMH 536

*Benediction

*Postlude

NURTURE

caring for one another, for our space, and for our growth as disciples

{Inward}

WE ARE PRAYING for Casey Bowman Mile, Heart Havens residents and staff, Maria, persons suffering because of addiction, the working poor, and incarcerated residents of metropolitan Richmond. Wish to add or restore a name? Say so via the offering plate or the church's e-mail address.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS typically shape our order of service, including the sermon. Next Sunday, Lent 2:

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:1-9

GIVING GROWS YOU and us.

	Ministry Costs	Your Gifts
February 1 - 13	\$9,854	\$6,561



Crossing Boulevard

with Rev. Rachel

²⁰ **IT IS FROM THERE THAT...** Philippians 3

When it is a good picture, a vintage poster, a child's drawing, or a valuable painting, we know that the frame matters. How we frame the keepsake can be impactful.

"America is a Christian nation." This is an example of a theoretical framework; meaning it shapes what one sees. If one frames our historical context with "Christians came to America to get away from other Christians determined to govern Europe" well, the brain produces another picture.

Paul frames faith. The frame is not an accessory. It is key to what he wants us to see. From Paul's point of view, practicing faith means (1) committing one's self to the life of a particular Christian community and (2) a counter-cultural existence.

In correspondence with the Philippians, he uses a word that means "colony". Christ followers had been formed into a colony. The Lord was the Lord of their colony. The Apostle reminds them that they belong differently. They are citizens of heaven—kingdom-citizens.

By using the words colony and citizen in connection with Christ, Paul invites the Philippians to examine whether they are abiding in framework given to them by God or clinging to the framework provided by Philippi (a colony of Rome).

If you and I were to take Paul seriously as an utterer of God's word for us in *our* day, we would ask ourselves about the frames with which we work and whether or not these frames are cross-shaped.

We would consider how it is with our kingdom citizenship, recognizing that the kingdom has never been one and the same as any nation-state.

We might recognize that God's saving grace really does come to us through the life we choose to live together on the colony level and that we don't have to become the empire.

Maybe we would spend less of ourselves on bemoaning culture and invest more in building up the body of Christ, which promises to be as counter-cultural now as it was in Philippi, if the way of the cross is the one we freely and gladly choose to take.

Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.